



The Minerals, Metals & Materials Society

Your Health and Safety at TMS2020

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Dear TMS Community:

We at TMS headquarters have received questions in recent days about how TMS is addressing implications of the coronavirus outbreak as we plan for the TMS 2020 Annual Meeting & Exhibition (TMS2020). We completely understand and empathize with the concerns that have been expressed. I am writing now to give you assurance that the health and safety of our meeting participants are paramount in our minds. TMS leadership has been monitoring the situation and following the guidance of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control since the coronavirus came into the international spotlight in early January.

What follows is a quick overview of where we stand now in addressing this situation:

Travel Bans

As of this writing, the United States government has barred entry to foreign nationals who have visited mainland China within 14 days as of February 2. U.S. citizens or permanent residents who have visited China within 14 days will undergo a proactive entry health screen and up to 14 days of self-quarantine with health monitoring to ensure that they do not pose a public health risk. In addition, effectively all direct U.S. flights to and from mainland China have been suspended. Similar suspensions of service are also being taken by major carriers outside the U.S.

As a U.S. based conference, TMS2020 honors all travel bans and quarantine protocols and insists that any would-be participant honor them as well. We anticipate that only attendees who are legally eligible to travel will be able to participate in the conference. In the cases where presenters are unable to participate, we have been working proactively with session organizers to minimize the potential impact on our technical programming and to identify replacement speakers where possible.

Onsite Health and Safety

TMS staff has been working with the San Diego Convention Center staff, who have in turn, been in contact with public health officials for guidance. We are following that guidance and related protocols.

We are also offering the following onsite resources:

- ❑ **First Aid Station:** In addition to providing routine advice and care, the health care professionals in this location will provide face masks on request.
- ❑ **Hand Sanitizing Stations:** These are located throughout the San Diego Convention Center and in the Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina. We will also have hand sanitizer available in high traffic areas, such as Registration and the Member Welcome Center.
- ❑ **Signage and Web Resources:** We are in the process of developing a resource page on the TMS2020 website that shares the guidance of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control on preventing the spread of coronavirus as well as other respiratory illnesses. We will also have signage placed throughout our venues with this guidance, as well as directions to the First Aid station.

I hope this offers some insight into what TMS is doing to help ensure that our attendees have the same safe and positive experience at TMS2020 as they have become accustomed to at our past events. Our thoughts are with our colleagues who will not be able to attend the meeting due to the travel restrictions. And, to those who will be attending, we look forward to seeing you in the next two weeks, and staff is prepared to assist you in taking full advantage of all that TMS2020 has to offer—safely.

James J. Robinson
TMS Executive Director



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